

## **§ 34.704**

### **§ 34.704 Use of funds and eligible activities—Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.**

(a) A Gulf Coast State receiving funds under this subpart must establish a grant program that complies with the Act and Federal laws and policies on grants.

(b) Gulf Coast States may use funds available under this subpart to award competitive subawards for the establishment of Centers of Excellence that focus on science, technology, and monitoring in at least one of the following disciplines:

(1) Coastal and deltaic sustainability, restoration, and protection, including solutions and technology that allow citizens to live in a safe and sustainable manner in a coastal delta in the Gulf Coast Region.

(2) Coastal fisheries and wildlife ecosystem research and monitoring in the Gulf Coast Region.

(3) Offshore energy development, including research and technology to improve the sustainable and safe development of energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

(4) Sustainable and resilient growth and economic and commercial development in the Gulf Coast Region.

(5) Comprehensive observation, monitoring, and mapping of the Gulf of Mexico.

### **§ 34.705 Ineligible activities—Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.**

Any activity that is not authorized under the provisions of § 34.704 is ineligible for funding under this subpart.

### **§ 34.706 Reports—Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.**

Each Gulf Coast State entity must submit the following reports:

(a) An annual report to the Council in a form prescribed by the Council that includes information on subrecipients, subaward amounts, disciplines addressed, and any other information required by the Council. When the subrecipient is a consortium, the annual report must also identify the consortium members. This information will be included in the Council's annual report to Congress.

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(b) Reports as prescribed by Treasury.

### **§ 34.707 Recordkeeping—Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.**

Recipients must maintain records as prescribed by Treasury and make the records available to Treasury, including the Treasury Inspector General.

### **§ 34.708 Audits—Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.**

Treasury, including the Treasury Inspector General, may conduct audits and reviews of each recipient's accounts and activities relating to the Act as deemed appropriate by Treasury.

## **Subpart I—Agreements**

### **§ 34.800 General.**

This subpart describes procedures applicable to grant agreements used by Treasury, the Council (including Federal agencies carrying out responsibilities for the Council), NOAA, Gulf Coast States, coastal political subdivisions, and coastal zone parishes in making awards under subparts D, E, F, G, and H of this part. It also describes Treasury's authority to inspect records and the Treasury Inspector General's authority under the Act.

### **§ 34.801 Grant agreements.**

The grant agreements used must conform to the Act and Federal laws and policies on grants, including audit requirements.

### **§ 34.802 Certifications.**

At a minimum, grant applications and agreements for the Direct Component, Comprehensive Plan Component, and Spill Impact Component must contain the following certifications. The certification must be signed by an authorized senior official of the entity receiving grant funds who can legally bind the organization or entity, and who has oversight for the administration and use of the funds in question. The certification in paragraph (c) of this section does not apply to planning assistance funds for the preparation and amendment of the Multiyear Implementation Plan.